

Message Text

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70

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-02 NSC-05 SS-15

/046 W

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P R 222002Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8311

INFO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 0104

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN EAIR BB

SUBJ: CIVAIR: EAL TRAFFIC RIGHTS TO TRINIDAD

REF: BTN 0096 AND PREVIOUS

1. EAL OFFICIALS INFORMED EMBOFF 1/22/75 THAT THEY INTENDED TO RECOMMEND AGAINST OPERATION OF BARBADOS-POS ROUTE FOR FIFTEEN DAY PERIOD AUTHORIZED BY GOB BECAUSE OF IMPRACTICABILITY OF IMPLEMENTING AND SCHEDULING ROUTE ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE FOR SUCH BRIEF DURATION. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATIONS, QUESTION AROSE AS TO WHETHER U.S. COULD NOW DESIGNATE EAL TO OPERATE BRIDGETOWN-POS SECTOR BECAUSE OTHER US CARRIER HAVING THIS ROUTE (PAA) HAD VOLUNTARILY DROPPED IT. EAL OFFICIALS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT USG SHOULD NOT HAVE TO RENEGOTIATE ROUTE EACH TIME ONE WAS DROPPED BY US CARRIER.

2. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DESIGNATE A SECOND CARRIER FOR A PORTION OF A ROUTE OPERATED BY ANOTHER US CARRIER, IN THIS CASE PAA. EMBOFF PROMISED EAL HE WOULD POSE QUESTION TO DEPT FOR REPLY. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPTS COMMENTS ON FEASIBILITY OF ABOVE PROCEDURE.

3. EAL REGIONAL DIRECTOR JOSE SIERRA SAID THAT HE MENTIONED EAL
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DESIRE TO OPERATE TRINIDAD SECTOR TO PM BARROW DURING RECENT

MEETING IN CARACAS AND THAT BARROW REMARKED THAT IT SEEMED LOGICAL STEP TO APPROVE FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS FOR EAL GIVEN PRESENT SITUATION; HOWEVER, HE INFORMED SIERRA THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO TAKE ISSUE TO AVIATION ADVISER IAN ARCHER, AT WHICH POINT SIERRA THREW UP HANDS AND JOKINGLY TOLD PM THAT THIS ACTION WOULD "FINISH US OFF" WHICH BROUGHT FORTH LAUGHTER FROM PM.

4. IN PRIVATE MEETING WITH GOB AVIATION ADVISER IAN ARCHER EAL OFFICIALS WERE TOLD THAT GOB WAS WITHHOLDING TRINIDAD SECTOR BECAUSE OF USG "HARD LINE ATTITUDE" TOWARDS GRANTING GOB FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS TO BAHAMAS. EMBOFF ALSO ASKED ARCHER SEPARATELY WHETHER NEW FACTORS (LIAT SITUATION, POOR TOURIST SEASON, PAA ACTION) HAD CAUSED GOB TO RECONSIDER ITS POLICY RE TRINIDAD SECTOR TO WHICH ARCHER REPLIED "NO, NOT REALLY".

5. VISITORS ALSO DISCLOSED THAT EAL HOPED TO BEGIN DIRECT DAILY FLIGHTS TO ANTIGUA FROM NEW YORK AND HOPED TO EXPAND THIS FLIGHT TO TAKE IN ST. MAARTEN AND SAN JUAN AS WELL. (COMMENT: IF CAB APPROVES, EAL FLIGHTS SHOULD CERTAINLY HELP TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS ANTIGUA HAS EXPERIENCED SINCE PAA CEASED OPERATIONS THERE).

6. COMMENT: EAL EXPERIENCE WITH BARROW INDICATES THAT ARCHER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GOB HARDLINE ATTITUDE ON TRINIDAD SECTOR, AND ARCHER'S FRANK ADMISSION REGARDING ITS RELATION TO BAHAMAS MATTER APPARENTLY MEANS THAT GOB INTENDS TO PUSH AT SOME POINT FOR FIFTH FREEDOMS TO BAHAMAS WITH WHATEVER MEANS IT HAS AT ITS DISPOSAL.

SIMMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR TRAFFIC, AIR ROUTE APPLICATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRIDGE00104
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750024-0776
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750131/aaaabbjo.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BTN 0096
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: EAL TRAFFIC RIGHTS TO TRINIDAD
TAGS: ETRN, EAIR, BB, EASTERN AIRLINES
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006